CLAIM(S)

What is claimed is:

1. A method for an intermediary to prove to an end user that certificate information is authenticated by an authority, comprising the steps of:

   (a) obtaining at least a portion of an authenticated tree having certificate nodes corresponding to certificate values indicative of the information; and

   (b) causing the end user to receive at least one of the following values: certificate values, authenticating values of certificate values, and one or more node values authenticated by an authority.

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